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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

3 March 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

SUBJECT: Project CORONA
(Equipment Meeting at PIC, 2 March)

1. The Subject meeting was convened at PIC this date by Mr. Arthur Lundahl, Chief, PIC, in cooperation with Mr. James Reber to accomplish two matters. The first was to note that persons in attendance will eventually become responsible for the administration or control of data dealing with satellite reconnaissance product within the "T" system. The second was to review the equipment necessary to processing such Take in order to accomplish economy by joint purchase or equipment modification.

2. In connection with Security approval to attend this conference, all persons mentioned in the attachment were given operational CORONA clearances. [redacted] accompanied the undersigned and is accomplishing the administrative follow-up involved in these clearances.

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3. The undersigned was asked to give a Security comment or benediction. It followed these points:

(a) It was noted there is no conflict between the mission of the operational clearance system and the "T" system. In fact, it is our objective to produce intelligence products that can be effectively melted into the "T" organization. It was suggested this staff had a hand in the development of the "T" system.

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(b) Reference was made to the 6 January meeting concerned with the same subject. It was pointed out we have evolved two CORONA briefings in so far as the "T" system is concerned. The first is specifically related to the complete operational briefing. The second will be a very limited briefing within the "T" system given to persons handling the product and necessarily aware that it was collected by a satellite reconnaissance mechanism.

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(c) The group was also advised that we have a CORONA program because a comparable project intrinsic within WS-117L received such a degree of publicity that it proved not acceptable to senior officials. As a consequence, this organization was asked to participate in an effort to submerge the capsule recovery phase of the Air Force reconnaissance satellite project. This was done by cancellation of the Air Force recoverable satellite. After some time this effort was re-initiated as the Research and Development DISCOVERER series.

(d) It was also noted in general terms that essentially CORONA is not more sensitive than the mission of WS-117L, except that CORONA is an effort to recover from a compromised project.

4. Following the above review, Mr. Reber briefly noted the objective enunciated in his paper, COR-0314 - 16 January 1959, concerned with this same subject.

5. The meeting then went into a detailed review of the processing proposed by PIC, including the equipment that now seems appropriate.



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Attachment: List of Persons Attending Meeting

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